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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL/AT/SECRET~~

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Ludwigslust

EVALUATION

DATE OF CO

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 15 May 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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1. Twenty-two T34 tanks with 3 or 4-man crews drove from the Techentin (M 54/T 86) airfield toward the training grounds east of Highway No. 191 in the afternoon of 7 March 1950.

Trucks  were seen at the airfield quarters between 6 and 9 March 1950:

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2. a. The former Ludwigslust (M 54/T 53) Reiter Kaserne was still occupied by tank, AT artillery, mortar, infantry gun and infantry units on 24 February 1950. Troops wore red-bordered black epaulets, some with tank and artillery insignia. A convoy of 10 to 12 trucks and 2 armored vehicles, coming from the direction of Grabow (M 54/T 52) entered the barracks through Karstallstrasse gate. One of the armored vehicles was believed to be a T34 tank; the other was a low vehicle with a T34 chassis but without turret. Each truck of the convoy was occupied by 15 to 20 soldiers wearing tank and artillery insignia and armed with carbines, submachine guns and light machine guns.

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- b. Twelve canvas-covered T34 tanks were observed between the garages of the Techentin airfield on 11 March 1950.

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2

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3. a. Eight T34 tanks and one SI gun were observed in the woods near the Techentin airfield at noon on 16 March 1950. Personnel at the tanks apparently prepared them for operation.

b. Two AT guns were seen emplaced near the highway at the southern exit of Grabow at noon on 23 March 1950. The guns were awkwardly emplaced by obviously inexperienced men. Their caliber apparently exceeded 100 mm. The barrels were 4 to 4½ meters long. The guns had rubber tires, split-trail gun carriages and muzzle brakes.

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c. A truck convoy entering Ludwigslust was observed on the same day. Each truck was occupied by about 15 soldiers.

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4.

Comment:

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a. The Ludwigslust troops, especially the 59th Mecz Regt/18th Mecz Div, were still at their post in mid-March 1950, according to this report. The troops conducted field exercises and motorized practice marches in the vicinity as was also reported from other military posts.

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3



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- \* The Kosterev railroad station is in the Moscow Oblast, on the railroad line to Gorki, a distance of 135 km from Moscow.

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